

Statement***Number of farmers committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra***

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Period	No. (Based on the figures reported by the State Governments)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2003-04	393
		2004-05	1126
		2005-06	378
		2006-07 (upto November)	92
		April to October, 2006	80
2.	Maharashtra	2003	170
		2004	622
		2005	577
		2006 (upto 31.10.2006)	1843
		April to October, 2006	1344

NOTE: For Maharashtra, the figures are the total number of suicide cases as reported by the State Government.

Availability of agricultural land

†2585. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is less availability of new land for agricultural purpose in the country whereas population of farmer community is rising continuously;
- (b) whether agricultural land is being acquired on large scale throughout the country each year for non-agricultural purpose;
- (c) if so, the action being taken to provide agricultural land to farmers after creation of new land to meet such shortage of land; and
- (d) the details of agricultural land acquired for non-agricultural purposes during the last five years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The per capita availability of cultivable land has declined from 0.27 ha. in 1980 to 0.18 ha. in 2003 due to increase in population and diversion of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries etc. There is no systematic

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

data available on acquisition of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. However, as per available estimates, there is a marginal decline in agricultural land in the last 5 years from 183.63 million ha. in 1998-99 to 182.92 million ha. in 2002-03; during the same period, land under non agricultural purposes has increased from 22.80 million ha. to 24.25 million ha.

Land is a State subject and, therefore, it is for the States to bring about suitable legislation regarding regulation of conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. Government is implementing a Centrally sponsored Programme to State Land Use Boards (SLUBs). Some of the States, through their SLUBs have issued instructions and executive orders to the line departments of their Government to ensure that prime agricultural land is not diverted for non-agricultural purposes, and if it becomes necessary to do so, then efforts may be made to provide equivalent land in lieu of diverted land.

Government of India is also implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP) and (vii) Integrated Waste-land Development Programme (IWDP) to develop the degraded lands in the country. Parts of such developed lands are brought under cultivation to meet shortage of land.

Setting up of National Rain-Fed Area Authority

2586. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to set up National Rain-fed Area Authority to look into ways to improve agriculture productivity in regions dependent on rainfall;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what is the action of Government to improve the productivity of rain-fed regions of Orissa under the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) National Rainfed Area Authority has been established *vide* Government Order dated 3rd November, 2006